

SENATOR NELSON: I will just make a few short comments. Again, I have to...Senator Hefner's figures sound good and so on, but the staff has to be paid here and allocations and so on and so forth. He has a good point. They're being paid anyhow. Well, that's not necessarily the way we're supposed to operate and if you could not get 67 students to participate when all of their expenses were paid for, how do you expect to get them to furnish their own transportation or do this or this or this? You're somewhat dreaming. Make that probably 40,000 or 50 but you know when it's 40,000 this year, next year it's 50,000, the next year is 60. Dick Hargesheimer's dad is even listed here from California as one of the supporters, so I think it's fine. I appreciate Senator Hefner talking about a 15,000, but I'll close. Give the rest of my time to Ernie.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you very much, Senator Nelson, members of the Legislature, and, Senator Hefner, especially you, I agree partially with both of you. I think Senator Nelson and others are correct in saying that probably way too much money was spent for what was realized from it, but I have to agree with the other comments and I was trying to stay out of this. Of those who are saying that these youngsters need some recognition from the Legislature other than when they're being stereotyped as gang members or users and dispensers of drugs. Never have I heard anybody other than myself stand on this floor when harsher punishments were being contemplated. I have an amendment now which is designed to strike Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment from a bill which would create more criminals among our young people. So, when we can allocate any amount of money to say build more prisons, more youth centers, hire more cops, give them more guns because these kids are gang members and they're going to use drugs, but then when it comes to a positive program that is designed to try to give them an alternative, the whole program is to be demolished, I cannot agree with that. I hope we will defeat Senator Nelson's motion, then decide how much we will spend on a program such as this. I think Senator Robinson touched on an important point, too. If there is dissatisfaction with the way the program is being operated, don't punish the patients, look at the doctors and the hospital administrator. If a patient comes in ill in the front door and goes out a corpse through the back door, don't take the rest of the patients in the hospital and turn them over to the undertaker.